POINT THREE

The monthly magazine of Toc H
7p March 1974

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March 1974

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.

2 To give personal service.

3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.

4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the cover:

The moment of triumph for Buckingham branch and the North Bucks District, organisers of the Toc H/Jimmy Savile Spinal Lounge appeal–and for the many branches throughout the country who helped to make the appeal such a sensational success. Making the presentation to Mr R Paterson, chairman of the hospital group management committee, is Des Bonner, who headed up the campaign. Looking on happily are Jimmy Savile and Dr J J Walsh, director of Stoke Mandeville Hospital's spinal unit, who between them conceived the idea of the lounge.
Photo: *Buckinghamshire Herald*

Point Three is available from Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6BT (Tel: 3911). Single copies 7p; 10 or more copies sent to the same address 6p each.

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

VIEW POINT

The frontier

Several articles which have crossed my desk in recent months have pointed to the growing number of people who are seeking to find a life style which embodies the insights into the human condition of Jesus of Nazareth, yet are unable to feel at home within the institutional Church or to accept many of the traditional Christian beliefs. The writers of these articles see the growth of such groups and individuals as the work of the Spirit in this generation; and they point to the need to find some kind of bridge, a channel of communication between such people and the Church. I wonder whether this kind of thinking is perhaps pointing us towards the future role of Toc H. Were we created to help such 'new Christians' (if this shorthand title may be accepted) find the way of life they are seeking, and to be a meeting place between them and church members? I am coming to believe that there is at least some truth in such a vision of the future.

The values these 'new Christians' cherish, the insights which are significant for them, are familiar to Toc H members–so familiar that I need only sketch them in crude outline. Fundamental is the conviction that love is the ultimate reality: it is love which gives meaning and purpose to human life. That conviction implies the need for caring, for service to the community which is based on a real relationship with those we seek to serve. It implies the need for fellowship in a group diverse enough to include differing opinions and prejudices, and strong enough to make the tension between conflicting views creative rather than destructive. And it also implies the need for the radical reformation of our political and economic systems.

Parallel to this conviction about love is the recognition of the reality of awe and wonder. The wonder of the mountains and the seas and the stars. The wonder, too, of the
'adoring mongol child
loving a normal mum, a normal dad,
who in their dull devotion
suffer thankfully the cross
that progress passes on'
(in the words of Keith Rea's poem 'Not News', printed in *Yours is the Glory*).

Many of those for whom the traditional worship of the Church has lost its meaning are none the less seeking new rituals, new ways of expressing awe and wonder and their experience of the sacredness of the ordinary. Just one example of such a spontaneous ritual. A group of friends, of several religions and of none, gathered for a meal. At the invitation of one of us we joined hands round the table and kept a moment of silence before sitting down. That simple gesture, at that moment, held a meaning for us, where a formal 'grace' would have held none.

One of the articles to which I referred in my opening paragraph is by Dr Walter Hollenweger, Professor of Mission at Birmingham University (published as Audenshaw Papers No 39). He writes of a group of nuclear physicists who asked him to teach them to pray, 'although they admitted that they did not believe in God I had expected them to have all kinds of problems and questions on the whole relationship between science and faith, but they said that they were less interested in that than in the idea of how one can pray. . . They seemed to me to be very typical of the Christian of the future; it is possible even to be agnostic and yet to be a Christian in this context.'

This indicates something of what it means to be on the frontier today. The concept of a Christian agnostic may seem startling, but if we are to fulfil the kind of role at which I have hinted we shall have to take care to preserve our openness to those whose search for the truth has led them in directions which may at first sight seem strange. We are called to be a frontier Movement. That implies a willingness to take risks and the courage to meet the unfamiliar.

I believe that Toc H, by its lack of emphasis on dogma and its recognition of the validity of personal experience, is well placed to act as a link between the churches and what I have called the 'new Christians'. I believe that many people are looking for the emphasis on personal relationships which is at the heart of Toc H. One might almost go so far as to say that if Toc H did not exist it would be necessary to invent something very like it.

K P-B

What do you do with your spare time?

Asks Jean Ritchie, press officer of the Open University

We've all got more of it, with shorter hours, longer holidays, intensive shifts, flexitime. And with cars, motorised lawn-mowers and other labour-saving gadgets, we've all got less to do when we get home.

In fact, the leisure industry is such big business that several major local authorities have appointed Directors of Leisure, and others are busily converting every available slag heap into sports pitches and marinas. You can even take a course in Leisure at Loughborough University –not to teach you what to do with your own spare time, but to equip you to advise others.

One outlet for many people is further education. This can mean anything from occasional evening classes in woodwork or car mechanics to studying for O and A levels–and even to taking a degree at home.

More than 40,000 people in Great Britain have chosen to spend their time working at home for degrees with the Open University in 1974. They are people in all sorts of jobs–postmen, policemen, housewives, factory workers, doctors, mechanics, schoolteachers, laboratory technicians. They work full-time–but they find the time to put in about 12 hours' work a week on their studies.

It will take most of them five or six years to get a degree in their own time. But for most of them, when they've started their studies, the degree is no longer the main reward. They discover that they enjoy learning, enjoy meeting other students with similar interests, enjoy proving to themselves that even though they left school at 15, they're as good as any 21-year-old graduate.

You don't need any qualifications to study for a degree with the Open University. Anyone can apply–places are awarded on a first come first served basis. It's left to you to fit in your studies when it suits you–students work from correspondence material backed up by radio and television programmes.

The name Open University derives not only from the open admission (anyone can get a place) but also from the University's open attitude towards study. You don't take a degree in any one subject at the Open University–you can study a mixture of subjects from the courses available.

Open University students don't work in complete isolation. The University has over 250 study centres throughout the country, based in local schools and colleges. These are open in the evenings for students to pop in and meet each other informally, or to attend tutorials. Students are assigned tutors and counsellors when they join the University–tutors to hold teaching groups and mark students' work, counsellors to help with individual problems.

The University recognises the difficulties of working at home. If a student has to move house, change job, has illness in the family, he has only to contact his counsellor who will arrange for him to send in work late.

Below: His kitchen becomes a laboratory. A student works at home with a Science Experiment Kit specially designed for the Open University.

Opposite page: Students taking the Arts Foundation Course discuss their work during the one-week summer school, which is compulsory for all first-year students.

Printing and distributing course material to the University's 40,000 students is a mammoth task. This machine handles the insertion of material into envelopes.

There is no time limit on taking a degree–once a student has started with the University he can spread his studies over as many years as he likes. He must, however, complete each year-long course within a given year, but he can break off between years. Women students with young families find this particularly useful.

Degrees are awarded on a credit-accumulation basis. One credit is awarded for each full course completed–when a student has six credits he automatically has a degree. Students can take as many as two courses a year, but this demands a lot of time (each course is estimated to take about 12 hours' work a week for 34 weeks), so most stick with one a year.

The University recruits students in the first half of one year for places the following year, and because of the pressure for places potential students should apply early. The applications period for places in 1975 is from 18 December 1973 to 3 July 1974.

Anyone who would like to know more about the University should write for a free Guide for Applicants to: The Admissions Office, The Open University, PO Box 48, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

Obituary

Dudley F Herring CBE

The Central Executive may have relied upon the unpredictable thrusters among its ranks to stimulate fresh ideas, but to keep it on a steady course it has also been thankful for men who combined ability with stability. Such a man was Dudley Herring. A top-ranking civil servant in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, he was a working member of Orpington branch from 1932, and from 1956 to 1964 he served on the Central Executive where his humorous and commonsense interventions helped to bring many an airborne debate back to earth. As a civil servant doubtless he learned how to bring discussions back within the proper bounds of relevance and integrity, and sometimes he would remind us wryly that the civil service definition of a committee was: 'A noun signifying many, but not much.' His letter in the October 1972 *Point Three* on the subject of 'That £2 Million' was just about the best of the series, typically full of good sense and practical thinking.

Death came to him suddenly one evening in December when he was driving two of his fellow members back from one of his branch 'jobs' at the Orpington Blind Club. That is how many of us will like to remember him: Toc H from first to last.
J C

We also regret to announce the death of the following members:
In September: Nellie Litterich (Evesham), Olive F L Silcock (Wroughton).
In October: John Brown (Ashtead), John T Hammond (Paignton), Henry F 'Jock' Wardlaw (Sussex Area).
In November: Charles W Anderson (North-West Area), Ernest D Roberts (Pwllheli), Herbert W Wood (Aylestone).
In December: Alfred J Hudson (Gravesend), Thomas E Hyams (Leamington Spa), Bertrand Keay (Coventry), Anthony L Lazenby (East London Area), Gladys S Leach (RHHI, Putney), Madge E Lenthall (Minster in Sheppey), Jessie V Miller (RHHI, Putney), George Pink (Crawley), Thomas P Powlesland (Uphill & Weston-super-Mare), Ronald Pugh (Maidenhead), Stanley W Rawle (St Thomas, Exeter), George Rogers (Griffithstown), Victoria B Slater (Woking), Gp Capt Gordon W Whittaker (Central), Winifred A Wickenden (Ramsgate).
In January: Joan M Banyard (West Central), Patrick J M Coombe (St Austell), Ivy M Dibden (Taunton), Alexander Gibb (Clacton-on-Sea), Charles W Jackson (Croydon), George A Knight (Edmonton), M Ruby C Stevens (Gravesend), David Stroud (Gravesend), William S Smith (Griffithstown), Charles Wake (Paignton).
We give thanks for their lives.

THE MAIN RESOLUTION 3

Keith Beck

Strengthened to fight

Toc H Poperinge was very definitely not a settled community: men came and went again–often never to return. Those whose stay in Talbot House had given them a new or renewed conviction about the eternal reality of love went out with a commitment and purpose–'to fight at all costs for the setting up of His Kingdom upon Earth'. All the struggles and enterprises of the 1920s and 1930s, the opening of Marks and branches, the work among young and old, the concern for the out-of-work and the unwanted, the breaking down of barriers created by colour, class and creed, were the consequence of that commitment.

To be in Toc H anywhere is to inherit that commitment, that fight for the setting up of the Kingdom of God. In some societies blood feuds between clans or families, lasting for generations, have been an accepted fact of life. To be born a Capulet committed one willy-nilly to feud with the Montagues. To enter Toc H is to enter into a continuing conflict and struggle with all that denies and opposes what we mean by the Kingdom of God.

One of the most significant words in the Main Resolution is the word 'strengthened'. Talbot House did something for those who shared in its fellowship, not least those who went upstairs and risked meeting the chaplain: above all, it did something for those who climbed yet higher and found that the Eternal Realities shone through into the temporal at an altar made from a carpenter's bench. The mixing together of men from every conceivable background and with just about every brand of belief under the sun couldn't help but result in a new understanding that 'a man's a man for a' that'. Perhaps most important, many men for the first time came to terms with themselves and saw themselves as they were–which is one of the most necessary but difficult experiences for every man. There was also the realisation that they were not the only ones with ideals and visions: much as it flatters any one of us to think that we have a unique vision or special crusade, it does help to know that there is at least one other person with similar delusions!

One of the chief responsibilities of Toc H is surely to carry on that process of 'strengthening'; to ensure that those who undertake the 'honest test' are given resources of mind and spirit with which to engage in the struggle. If Toc H provides good fellowship and an opportunity to do a worth-while job in the community, but does not at the same time enable men to grow in their understanding of themselves and of life, and to be equipped to fight against selfishness in all its forms, we shall have failed.

Perhaps one of the most fundamental facts about this fight is that it begins at home–within our own lives. The vested interests which would oppose the Kingdom of God are first and foremost our own apathy, indifference and laziness, coupled with the appeal to 'look after number one'. When we are truly aware of how selfish we can be, and how weak we often are, we shall never be shocked at any action, however selfish or evil, in others: those people who are easily shocked are obviously deluded about their own true nature.

But what *is* this Kingdom of God? What kind of society is it for which we are aiming? Are the revolutionaries and anarchists right in their assumptions that only violent change can create anything worth while? To think in terms of societies and patterns of community is to start at the end rather than the beginning: the essential and fundamental fact is that Jesus said plainly, 'the Kingdom of God is within you.' This is not to relegate it to religious individualism with some sort of private and personal enjoyment of God: it is to see that it must begin within each one of us–and that it can begin there, and begin now. Plato's *Republic* devotes thousands of words to discussing what it means to be truly just–to give each man his due. We cannot spend such time, nor need we do so. Christ has not given us a classic of philosophy to study; but there are the lessons of the Good Samaritan and the Sheep and Goats. I am sometimes tempted to think that just as some 'intellectual difficulties about God' are an excuse to evade any commitment, so uncertainties over what shape the Kingdom of God should be are a means of dodging our place in the ranks of those 'strengthened to fight at all costs for the setting up of His Kingdom upon Earth'.

What IS the District branch?

The formation of a district branch, as proposed in **'Action for the Seventies,'** does not merely alter the administrative arrangements for maintaining contact with Central and Area members. It provides an opportunity, as has already been proved in several parts of the country, for attracting new people, especially young people, into the Movement. To find out more we spoke to David Ratcliff, Central Executive member from Surrey, and Ray Fabes, of the Midland Region staff.

'If you won't ask me, I'll have to ask you. Can I join this crazy outfit?' That was John Bigger-staff's reaction to his first contact with Toc H when, as a probation officer in Peterborough, he became involved in last summer's 'How to run a city' project. Soon after the project he became an Area member and, at the same time, volunteered to lead a similar project this year. He was invited to join the District Development Team. He then paid a visit to Peterborough branch and became active in branch life. He joined the full-time staff on 1 February.

Elizabeth Burgess first became active in Toc H some 10 years ago, while she was still at school. She was a member of a volunteer group, took part in projects and acted as secretary of the Surrey project support group before deciding, after five years, to join the Movement. The group to which she belonged did not wish to become a branch and so she and others became Area members. Since then she has played a full part in the leadership of the District and has served as District secretary. She remains an Area member.

John and Elizabeth are just two of the many people who have joined the Movement in recent years and whose main involvement has been at District level, on week-end projects, project support groups, development teams and the like. For some, like John, District membership is a stepping-stone to branch membership. Others, like Elizabeth–and they are probably the majority–will continue to express their commitment at the wider level of the District.

Ray suggests that one of the main factors in Elizabeth's decision to join was her sense of identity with people at District level. These were the people she knew and worked with. They were Toc H to her. John's sense of identity was probably more with the activities of Toc H in Peterborough. Toc H was doing things which he wanted to be part of.

Clearly, the formation of the District branch provides an opportunity to involve those at present listed as Central or Area members more fully in the life and work of the Movement. Those who have had to drop out of branch membership because there is no branch within reasonable travelling distance may particularly welcome the opportunity of taking part in District activities. The evidence of John and Elizabeth, however, shows that the District branch is also a means of bringing new people into Toc H and extending the Movement.

Both Ray and David feel that there may, in some cases at least, be an unconscious element of protest against the traditional structure about the decision to join a District branch. However this may be, District members have demonstrated an eagerness to be involved in the development of the Movement and to play their part in initiating new activities. District members, both actual and potential, undoubtedly have an important role in development teams, project support groups and the like.

Some District members join initially because of an interest in a particular problem. They may, for instance, take part in a project with mentally handicapped children, go on week-end projects at the same institution and then volunteer to lead a project there the following summer. In terms of what they contribute to the Movement, and what they learn from the experience, such specialisation can often be justified.

John and Elizabeth illustrate the different speeds at which people come to feel a commitment to the Movement. John decided he wanted to join almost immediately. Only after several years of active involvement did Elizabeth feel it right to make this commitment. Which is only to make the obvious, but frequently neglected, point that people are different and we have to treat them as individuals. If we are, as Tubby insisted, 'fishers of men', we have to

start by recognising that each individual fish requires us to use a particular kind of fly.

From this it follows that the job of the 'contact person' for the District branch is crucial. It involves very much more than the keeping of a mailing list. He or she has to decide when to encourage an individual to continue to pursue his particular interest and when to encourage a wider experience of Toc H; when to encourage an individual to join the Movement and when to delay the invitation. He is the main contact point for a number of individuals at very different stages of commitment. Both David and Ray stressed that this vital job should *not* be put on the already hard-pressed District secretary. It should ideally be undertaken by one of the members of the District branch.

Fellowship is as important an element in the Toc H experience for District members as it is for branch members. In Surrey, where the experiment has been in operation longer than anywhere else, there is, in addition to week-end projects and visits to Dor Knap and Alison House, a regular series of major events throughout the year. Some are primarily for 'business' purposes, like the planning and evaluation of the summer project programme. Others, like the pancake greaze, are social events. But all of them provide an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas. In Peterborough, similarly, District members take part in the regular 'all member' meetings and Communion Breakfasts. Several went to Dor Knap for the World Chain of Light Vigil.

Many District members, perhaps because their primary commitment is to the Movement as a whole rather than to a particular local expression of it, have a strong sense of being part of the Family of Toc H. John Biggerstaff, for instance, when told that his staff training would involve spells in different parts of the country, commented on the fact that it was possible 'to travel so widely and still be in the Family'.

Ray stressed that the commitment, of both time and money, by District members is at least as great as that of branch members. 'The thing that has impressed Peterborough District,' he said, 'is the great financial commitment these District members have made direct to the Family on accepting membership, as well as their wish to identify on a wider level with all the Movement is doing.' David, although he couldn't say so himself, is another example of this depth of commitment. He devotes a great deal of time to his leadership role, both locally at District level and now nationally as a member of the Central Executive. District members are in no sense passengers.

The suggestion of the District branch contained in *Action for the Seventies* is not just a pious hope on the part of the Central Executive. It is a policy whose effectiveness is proved. It is not meant to compete with, still less to replace, existing branches, but it has been shown to be one effective way of bringing new people to play a full part in the life of the Movement. John Biggerstaff and Elizabeth Burgess are living proof of the fact that this is a policy which works.¶

Welcome Point

The following branch was recognised by the Central Executive at its January meeting: Arlington (j).

The following branches elected new members during the month:

5—Chalfonts (m).

3—Higham Ferrers (w), RHHI (Putney) (w).

2—Great Harwood (m), Moseley (j), Parkhurst (w), St Annes on Sea (j), Shrewsbury (m).

1—Acton (w), Ashby de la Zouch (m), Bognor Regis (w), Budleigh Salterton (m), Caister on Sea (m), Central, Chard (m), Edgmond (j), Gorleston (w), Headingley (w), Hitchin (m), Knowle (w), Leicester (m), Leicester (w), Margate (w), Milford on Sea (j), Norwich (w), Potters Bar and Little Heath (j), Prestonpans (m), Rushden (w), Scarborough (j), Solihull (m), Syston (j), Wednesfield (m).

We extend a warm welcome to the 45 new members.

Fifty years of rugby football

Wilfrid Lord traces the history of the Toc H Manchester Rugby Football Club, which celebrates its Golden Jubilee this season.

Fifty years ago a number of sports-minded young residents of Mark IV, Manchester, prompted by old boys of Christ's Hospital School, discussed the possibilities of playing a team game on Saturday afternoons. However, they could not agree between the rival claims of rugby and hockey. A decision was reached after an opening game of rugby was played against a team from the local YMCA and a game the following week against the near-by Union Chapel men's hockey team. And so was founded Toc H Manchester Rugby Football Club, launched with six £1 loans by the more wealthy stalwarts.

The first few years were haphazard affairs with no minutes or records kept. Team photographs were taken from the outset, a practice continued

The only match between Manchester and the Toc H Rugby Football Club in London (since defunct) took place in London in 1946. Manchester are in the striped jerseys.

ever since. Eventually, members of local branches took an active interest in running the club.

Players of early days included Pat Leonard and Monty Callis (area padre and secretary respectively), Ted Davidson, 'Nibs' Smith, Michael Colman and 'Bobs' Ford. No less than five future bishops and two archdeacons displayed their varying abilities as rugby players.

By the 1930s officers and players were drawn from a wide area of Lancashire and Cheshire, and two teams were fielded regularly. The outbreak of war in 1939 brought the club's playing activities to a halt, no less than 56 of the 59 members going into the armed forces. Six gave their lives. For six years contact was maintained with all players by means of irregular issues of newsletters sent all over the world. This maintenance of ties was much prized and resulted in the club being one of the first in Lancashire to start playing again after the war.

In 1951 a seven-a-side tournament for junior clubs in the North-West was started and has run with success ever since. The money raised has always been devoted to the funds of the Toc H Children's camp in Rhyl, the grand total now approaching the £1,000 mark.

The club was probably one of the first in the area to enrol young boys (colts) and has always made a particular point of teaching rugby to boys from schools where the game is not played. As a result many young fellows have been given the opportunity of enjoying the game with a sound basic training. Great stress is still placed on colts rugby, and the club has run a very successful side for many years, culminating in the selection this season of a boy to play for Lancashire Colts.

The club became the first tenants in 1925 of Simon Field, presented to the Playing Fields Society by Lord Simon, and has played there ever since. Regrettably, last August the River Mersey overflowed its banks and flooded all three pitches which have not been fit for use since, causing immense difficulties and problems for the officers. In 1965 a local brewery used the shell of an old outbuilding to make changing rooms and bath-house, the complete internal fitting being undertaken by the club.

Five fifteens have been fielded regularly for many seasons and on the odd occasion even seven, the standard of the 1st XV being the equivalent of the second teams of the leading clubs in the north-west. In 1972 the club won the Griffon Plaque, a knock-out competition open to clubs in the Manchester district, while in 1973, for the third time in 24 years, the club won its own seven-a-side tournament.

And so the club struggles during its golden jubilee season with no grounds of its own. However, the officials of Manchester Education Committee have been so impressed over the years by what the club has done for junior rugby that they have very generously come to the club's aid, as have local clubs, and so no games have had to be cancelled for lack of pitches. Cheerfully the club looks to the next 50 years when the present difficulties have been weathered.

Wilf Lord, the author of this article, photographed during his period as captain of the 1st XV (1932–35). Wilf is still the club's hon secretary, a post he has held since 1936, and is this season's president of the club.

A view of Colsterdale

Roy Darlison of the Sheffield Probation Service writes about the value of the Toc H Centre at Colsterdale to the Service and the relationship between the Service and Toc H which is developing as a result.

Colsterdale is one of Yorkshire's lesser dales, although for me it rivals, in its own way, the grander valleys such as those of the Swale and the Nidd. Within easy reach of Ripon and the A1 and just outside the eastern boundary of the Dales National Park, it is accessible from Sheffield for week-ends or longer periods. The house itself, once a farm, lies close to the head of the dale beside a road which very soon becomes a heathery footpath into the National Park.

It is my aim in a few paragraphs to convey something of the nature and growth of two phenomena in relation to the Toc H house at Colsterdale: its use by the Sheffield Probation Service and the relationship between that service and Toc H in a joint effort to aid individuals, and families, who are for some reason disadvantaged or deprived.

My introduction to Colsterdale in 1970 coincided with my awareness of Toc H as something more than a mystical society meeting under the sign of Aladdin's lamp. A colleague, Tim Greenacre, himself a member of Toc H and the son of a former staff member, learned of the existence of the house and its availability from Johnnie MacMillan. The previous year Tim and I had run a small experimental camp elsewhere in York-

Children from Sheffield enjoy the open moorland.

shire, and our interest in Colsterdale stemmed from our conviction that the experiment was worth repeating.

We decided initially not to seek the use of the house but instead to camp near by. However, there were envious noises made by female colleagues at the opportunities provided, for workers and clients alike, by a residential project, even of just a week's duration. They prompted us to ask whether or not a group of girls could use the house during the same week as the boys' camp. The answer was a warm 'yes' and the Sheffield Probation Service's 'Colsterdale Exercise' was launched.

Our aims were to provide a happy time for youngsters whose lives were at best often dull and boring, and at worst quite desperately miserable. In addition, we hoped to help them with emotional and practical difficulties and deficiencies while gaining additional skill in understanding and meeting their needs.

Three officers led a group of nine boys ranging in age from 12 to 17, and the girls' group was led by three officers and a social work student. The boys enjoyed walking and camping (some of the time), playing games and fraternising with the girls. The girls visited places of interest, undertook some easy walks and enjoyed fraternising with the lads. Those who know Colsterdale and also enjoy 'Western' films will perhaps see certain similarities between the wagon train watched by marauding Indians and the plight of a group of adolescent boys camped beyond Mr Binks's house and watched from high ground by predatory females.

The venture was quite enough of a success for us to book the house for two weeks in 1971. This time one week was taken up with a group of late adolescent boys, some of whom had camped with us the previous year. The second week, led by a group of female officers, catered for a group of younger boys who were part of a mixed group of youngsters who had been meeting together regularly at the probation office. In support were two husbands and two

The old, stone farmhouse which has become the Colsterdale Centre.

At least in 1973 the sun was hot enough for the moorland streams to be pleasantly cooling.

dogs, all 'volunteers'. The aims remained largely unchanged, but we had begun to improve our understanding of how we might use the opportunity that Colsterdale offered.

This pattern was repeated in the following year with an increased involvement of volunteers. Our use of Colsterdale for young people had thus become a recognised feature with the service in Sheffield, and other probation areas had been running similar projects in other counties–in some cases for many years.

The idea of family groups at Colsterdale was first aired in my hearing by two colleagues, Pat Thomson and Mary Hodgson–the latter has since gone to live and work in deepest Suffolk. When the idea was echoed independently by Bill Bains, Toc H staff member in Yorkshire, it seemed that we were 'in business'. The result was three weeks booked at Colsterdale for 1973, one of which was to be used for providing three families at a time with three days away from Sheffield. In addition to these bookings a group of probationers committed themselves to a week-end in February during which they painted the dormitories, and a mixed group of probation officers and potential volunteers met at the house in April to get to know each other and discuss the summer project.

The direct involvement in the project of Toc H members and Toc H recruited volunteers was the second major innovation in 1973. Throughout the period of our use of Colsterdale the relationship with Toc H had been developing (although Tim Greenacre had left Sheffield and the probation service before the summer of 1971). Along with others from outside the Movement I had been invited to join the Colsterdale committee. Through that forum and in discussion, first with Johnnie MacMillan and later with Bill Bains, the probation officers from Sheffield who used the house made a contribution to the thinking about how the house should be used. At the same time we were stimulated to examine new ways of using the facilities and resources of Toc H in the service of our clients.

The next stage of our increased involvement with the Movement was through the creation of a project support group by the branches in the South Yorkshire District. This group made it possible for us to consider the expansion of our project in 1973 and played an important part in bringing those plans to fruition through practical help. We received money, food and clothing and enthusiastic encouragement. For the project itself, Richard Jackson, then a long-term volunteer (now, I understand, a staff member), led volunteers on all three weeks. His completion of that task was no mean feat. I speak from experience, having been involved for the whole of only two weeks the previous summer.

On the basis of our shared experience it has been agreed that of three weeks booked for 1974 one will again be used for families, but staff and leadership will be by Toc H members and volunteers, with the probation service in support.

Precise plans have not yet been laid for the other two weeks, although they will certainly owe much to the very existence of Toc H Colsterdale and the hard work of Toc H members in Yorkshire in bringing it into being.

The aims, aspirations and methods of Toc H have, I feel, much in common with those of the probation service–a recognition that through the making and development of sound personal relationships people can be helped to a fuller and more satisfying life. Using a similar frame of reference to encompass Colsterdale, Toc H and the Sheffield probation service leads me to suggest that the relationship between the Sheffield service and Colsterdale is come of age and that that between the service and Toc H is fast maturing. A satisfactory situation for all concerned.¶

NEWS POINT

FUNDS SPENT IN 15 YEARS

Treasurer warns Central Executive

The myth that the sale of 15 Trinity Square has ended the Movement's financial worries for ever was rudely shattered at the Central Executive meeting on 19 January. George Liddle, Hon Treasurer, presented a report which showed that expenditure at the level contemplated for the coming year would, unless our income increased substantially, exhaust our reserves by 1988. None the less, the Executive, in the conviction that the planned increase of staff would make possible the expansion of the Movement, approved expenditure of up to £365,000 in the financial year which starts on 1 April, and accepted the estimated deficit of £135,000.

The massive increase in expenditure, which it is estimated will be running at the rate of £1,000 per day, partly reflects the fact that Toc H is not immune from the galloping inflation which afflicts the rest of us. And it also reflects the fact that nine new members of the field staff were appointed during the past year and that it is hoped to fill a further 17 field staff vacancies in the coming year. During the 1960s, when funds were tight, the field staff was drastically reduced. With the easier position caused by the sale of 15 Trinity Square the Executive regards the building up of an adequate field staff as a first priority.

The decision to accept the enormous estimated deficit of £135,000 was taken in faith. The rate of decline in membership figures has been gradually reduced in recent years, and the Executive believes that the decline can and will be stopped. The recruitment of new members is currently running at an average of two per day. If this figure could be doubled the situation would be transformed. Now is the time, therefore, to pursue an expansionist policy, vigorously and firmly. The results of such a policy will have to be seriously reviewed in five years' time.

During the discussion it was pointed out that it is intended that next year budgeting will be the responsibility of the new Regional Executives. This will help to make it clear that money raised in a Region, from membership contributions, special efforts and donations from the general public, does not go into a bottomless pit in London or Wendover but is spent within the Region.

The Finance Committee's report, presented by George Liddle, is based on the assumption that inflation will be at an average of 7 per cent per annum and the interest rate on gilt-edged securities will be at 10 per cent; that the expected expenditure of £1,000 per day will be subject to no further increases other than the effect of inflation; and that income from the membership and from donations remains unchanged. On these assumptions the report shows that 'By 31 March 1988 all assets–investments, properties, including branch properties, offices and staff houses–will have been realised and the proceeds expended.'

George added that, in view of these figures, it would be more than difficult to consider any new projects involving capital expenditure. He stressed, however, that the revolving funds from which interest-free loans are made to branches are not affected. David Ratcliff made a plea, which was endorsed by the Executive, that every effort be made to restrict administrative expenditure.

Something to shout about

'It pays to advertise; that is, when you have something worth telling people about,' says Reg Collins, press officer of Bournemouth joint branch. The Wessex District has taken space in two local papers to tell residents and visitors what's on and where, and Bournemouth branch has had similar information included in local radio programmes. 'The result has been', says Reg, 'that several inquiries have been received.'

Bournemouth branch has something to shout about in the success of its appeal for Green Shield stamps to buy wheelchairs. Over a million stamps were contributed in just 14 months, and the branch now has a fleet of seven self-propelled wheelchairs out on loan. The fleet is made up of three Chairmobiles, one Wrigley, one BEC 10 and two BEC Dual Control chairs.

Bournemouth members joined members of Boscombe men's branch, which celebrated its 21st birthday last December, to sing carols at a local bingo hall. These two branches, together with Ilford afternoon group, have produced a leaflet giving details of meetings and activities. Copies of the leaflet have been supplied to 'Welcome Wagon', an organisation which welcomes newcomers to the district and gives them information about local affairs.

Poperinge and Bruges

Why not join a Toc H party, 13–20 July? Full itinerary of excursions including Holland. Open to members and friends. Details from Skegg Blanchard, Toc H, Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

SEEKING A NEW DIRECTOR

Sandy Giles, Director, and George Liddle, Hon Treasurer, announced to the Central Executive in December that they did not wish to be considered for reappointment to their respective offices by the Central Council in October 1974.

The post of Director is advertised on the inside back cover of this issue of *Point Three* and advertisements will also be appearing in the national press this month. The closing date for completed applications is 26 April. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Central Council in October and, if confirmed, the new Director will take up his duties immediately after that meeting. The Central Executive has decided that the new Director will be based at Forest Close, Wendover.

Bob Knight, Headquarters Padre, had earlier indicated his intention to relinquish his post when his present term of office expires at this year's Central Council meeting. In order to ensure continuity in the leadership of the Movement the Central Executive has asked Bob to continue as Headquarters Padre for a further year and Bob has agreed. The Central Executive will therefore propose to the Central Council that Bob be reappointed in October for one year.

The Central Executive has also agreed to propose to the Council that Gilbert Francis be reappointed as General Secretary for a further term of three years.

The storm tossed coach

Dudley Benbow

On the day of the great storm in January we had a terrifying experience with the Hythe, Kent, coach. The last of our seven wheelchair calls was in Capel Street, a narrow road close to the cliffs at their highest point. The gale, accompanied by rain, was at its height, and when the rear door of the coach was opened to let down the hoist it was blown clean off its bottom hinge. Fortunately, a helper from the Lions was with us and, while he held on grimly to the right-hand door, two of us wrestled desperately to get the other door into position. Twice the gale blew it out of our hands, knocking one of us down, but eventually it was secured and then roped from inside for extra safety. We found that we could manipulate and lift the wheelchairs down the steps; and so the old folk were safely delivered.

Tribute to Charles Jackson

'Charles found interest and enjoyment in life through music, drama and places with associations,' said the vicar of St Stephen's, Thornton Heath, in his address at the funeral of Charles Jackson, member of Croydon branch and a former member of the Old House committee. 'He loved an "occasion", something impressive, dignified and stirring in its presentation. And how he loved travel. Many of us are grateful for his Poperinge and Oberammergau tours.'

Norwich women's branch (above) and Margate women's branch (below) both contributed to the campaign to plant more trees during 1973. In Norwich a Purple Maple was presented to a hostel for the blind and was planted by Miss M Lardner, who has worked for the blind for 40 years. In Margate, branch chairman Mrs M Phillips planted a Copper Beech in Dane Park.
Photos: *Eastern Daily Press* and *Isle of Thanet Gazette*

Gipsy children learn - and teach

Last year the North Wilts Gypsy Council ran a summer school under the leadership of Toc H member Eric Hodges. These extracts from the diary of one of the volunteer helpers, a 16-year-old girl, show that the gypsy children, too, had skills to teach the volunteers.

About 15 children came up on the first day and we very soon got to know them. They all seemed very friendly and uninhibited and chatted away with us quite freely, though a few of the very young ones seemed shy. It surprised us that they all painted houses, but this was not, I think, because they wanted to live in houses, but more because they copied the first child to draw, and all their houses were alike. . . Maria's and Collette's parents came up for a few minutes during the afternoon and all the parents seemed keen on the idea of a summer school. . . Noah, Tommy and Jimmy collected some firewood for us and set about showing us how to make a proper fire. . .

Some of the children read a little to us, although their concentration would not let them read for more than 10 minutes, though there were intervals of concentrated effort. We introduced the inflatable for the first time. It was very successful, all the children played on it. We were invited down to one of the two camp fires by Collette's mother, Mrs Morley, and to the other by Noah. After school we had a few of the children up with us to see how we were getting along with out tents, etc. We talked until 8.30 and then we went to see the first camp fire. Susan, Noah and Jimmy were there and so was Mrs Betty James who spoke to us about the site and the farm up the road. There are eight families on the site and 12 caravans. Then we went in the Morleys' caravan for a cup of tea. She talked to us about Maria and herself, also Amy who is said to cast spells on people who cross her. . .

Went on ramble for about half an hour collecting flowers. Maria really enjoyed herself. Came back and stuck flowers in home-made scrap book and identified them. Younger kids didn't concentrate on it too much and soon got disinterested, though Lily and Morainder took a long time and were very careful with it. Noah soon gave up after first page and so ramble was a partial success. . . Introduced paddling pool. Great success. . .

Maria got rather excited which causes her to get rather vicious. She bites, pinches and is generally spiteful. She doesn't take any notice of scolding, and if you bite her back she only laughs. Kids liked using the new equipment, especially the Wendy House and the sheriffs' badges.

Private Alan Care

In reporting the gift of £100 from the Sussex British Legion to the spinal lounge appeal to honour Private Alan Care we stated in our January issue that Mr Care had been killed by a sniper's bullet in Northern Ireland. We are happy to learn that this is not so. Mr Care, though disabled, is very much alive. Our sincere apologies to Mr Care and his family.

Poetry at Dor Knap

This year's 'Accent on Poetry' week-end will be at Dor Knap, 19–21 April.

These week-ends have proved relaxing and enjoyable in the past. 'Accent on Poetry' is for those who know they like poetry and for those who feel prepared to give it a try. Details from Sue Sutton, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Assembling some of the 17 flashing-light emergency call systems so far distributed in Huddersfield–the first to be seen in the town–are Rawthorpe branch members (l to r) Arthur Walton, George Kimmings, Fred Tawpey, Stanley Mothersdale, Fred Smith and Arthur Armitage.
Photo: *Huddersfield Examiner*

Death of Charles Wake

The news of the sudden death of Charles Wake will have greatly saddened so many people throughout the world who knew him, by correspondence if not face to face, through his work for the stamp appeal. The appeal has had to be temporarily closed down until a philatelist with the time and necessary expertise is found to take it over.

'What can be said of this great servant of Toc H?' writes Cyril Lloyd of Paignton branch. 'He took over the stamp appeal from his father in 1927, and together they have a record of over 50 years of work for the Family of Toc H. The amount of work this entailed was staggering. Correspondence from addresses all over the world, news brought to the branch of good wishes from branches on the other side of the earth, always making us realise that we were part of a great Family. Charles was a man of deep conviction and of great integrity. He would sometimes disagree with you violently in discussion but never bore malice, and after such heated discussion you would always find him ready to join in and help on the job which had arisen, as if the discussion had never taken place. We have lost a great friend.'

Continued at foot of next column

Another of the many efforts which enabled the Stoke Mandeville Hospital spinal lounge appeal to raise over £10,000 in just seven months. This was in Bletchley, Bucks. Shaking the collecting tins and turning the barrel-organ handle are Tom Hayday, Ted Wells and Sid Armstrong.
Photo: *Bucks County Press*

Accident work honoured

Ken Redhead

Ken Easton, pilot of Catterick branch and a local medical practitioner, has been awarded the OBE for his work with the Road Accident After Care Scheme. Ken is a founder member of the scheme. He has lectured in Australia, South Africa and other countries as well as throughout Britain, and has been responsible for providing the know-how for similar schemes to be started.

The Road Accident After Care Scheme ensures that a qualified medical practitioner carrying special resuscitation equipment, with a radio-telephone in his car, is on the scene very quickly following a road traffic accident. This ensures that skilled medical assistance instead of first-aid is available which has already saved many lives, particularly in cases of head injuries and crushing injuries to the chest, where skilled assistance and special equipment is often needed very quickly if life is to be saved.

The Catterick branch members offer their congratulations to Ken and feel that the honour conferred on him is very well deserved.

LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Despite the present national crisis, two amusing stories have emerged from Peterborough recently.

John Biggerstaff, newly appointed member of staff, attended his first important meeting in Norfolk. It was not until he arrived that he realised he had on one black and one brown shoe–after putting them on in the dark to conserve electricity. Needless to say, the first person to spot the mistake was Ted BOOTY!

The following evening John Cutt, CEC member, was returning from the Planning Committee via King's Cross, which was almost in total darkness. He boarded his train in the gloom and although, later, the train was fairly full, no one joined him in his compartment, except a railway official, who politely inquired how far he was going. It was not until he got out at Peterborough that he was able to read the notice on the door which said 'Ladies Only'.

Worth remembering

Instead of loving persons and using things, we are always tempted to love things and use persons.

From 'Adventure in Prayer', December 1973.
Toc H Australia.

Troops fight against leprosy

The Paderborn Social Club and Toc H Group at the Services Club in Paderborn has made a generous donation of £140 towards the work of Toc H members in Lesotho in helping sufferers from leprosy.

The main job of the branch in Lesotho is helping the 300 patients at Botsobelo Leper Colony. The branch includes both African and European members, and the present secretary is Florence Bartlett, formerly a member of Poole branch in Dorset, who is secretary to the Bishop of Lesotho.

Welsh links with Ethiopia

Colwyn Bay branch in North Wales has sent a donation of £10 to Ethiopia to help with famine relief. The branch's contact with Ethiopia goes back over 10 years to the time when Getachew Terore was a student living in lodgings in Colwyn Bay and found friendship in the branch. Mr Terore, who is now married with six children and has become a branch manager of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, has kept in regular touch with his friends in Colwyn Bay. When members read of the famine in Ethiopia, therefore, it was natural that they should write to Mr Terore and ask how they could help. In addition to sending a donation the branch has also, at Mr Terore's suggestion, written to the Minister of National Community Development and Social Affairs in the belief, in the words of branch secretary Bert Oates, that 'this will help to convey to some of the Ethiopian authorities that the hand of friendship can still be held out to subjects of their country when domiciled in Britain'.

Come Hiking

Ramblers, hikers, walkers. Whatever you call yourself, if you like walking for pleasure among beautiful scenery and in good company you will enjoy a week at the Toc H Centre 'Weir Side', in the Lake District Langdale Valley. There is comfortable dormitory accommodation for 12 men. The centre has been reserved for two weeks, 1 to 8 June and 20 to 27 July 1974.
There will be moderate as well as more strenuous walks both weeks. Full cost per week, £8. If interested in either week write to:
Wilf Youngs, Talbot House, Queen's Way, Southampton SO1 1AZ.

In brief...

New Zealand House supplied Preston Park, Brighton, branch with posters and information leaflets for use in connection with the World Chain of Light. The material was passed on to the geography department of a local secondary school.

Nine patients from Carmarthen hospital, together with members of Llanelli and Llanllwch branches, joined Coomb Cheshire Home branch for the World Chain of Light service.

The news of the death of Canon F G Chevassut ('Fuggy') will bring back memories of the Manchester Toc H Players who, for 10 years (1926–36), were famous for their evenings of drama and variety.

A successful coffee evening run by Iver women's branch, Slough, made possible one of the very many contributions to the Stoke Mandeville appeal.

Congratulations to Chris Holmes, former warden of Mark I in London's Notting Hill, on his appointment as Deputy Director of Shelter, with responsibility for the co-ordination of Shelter's housing policy.

Toc H and the Salvation Army held a joint carol service in Leicester, at which the Christmas story was presented by children from a Roman Catholic school. The collection, some £73, was given to Roecliffe Manor Cheshire Home.

The second annual Leicester Toc H table tennis contest has been held, and once again the winners were Syston joint branch.

That wood chopping is not necessarily a young man's sport was proved by members on Hayling Island, Hants. A recent party of amateur lumberjacks included one 80-year-old and two members in their seventies.

This year's Western Area Rally will be held on 19 September at Ridgeway School, Wroughton, Wilts. More details nearer the time.

Wessex District members were delighted that Padre Ken Bloxham, now retired to Wimborne, was able to conduct their World Chain of Light service.

For the second year running students on the Higher National Course of Catering at Bournemouth College of Technology prepared and served an excellent Christmas dinner for 32 senior citizens nominated by Bournemouth joint branch.

Letters

'In the West End'

After reading 'In the West End' in the December *Point Three*, I would like to tell you of a tribute which was paid to Ursula Lefroy by a mother who lived in the Sceptre Street district of Newcastle.

I was asked by Ursula to meet Anne who would be arriving at Brighton Station with her 9-year-old son. I was to escort them to a residential school for problem children where the child and mother were to be interviewed. After a long struggle, Ursula had succeeded in arranging the interview, and she had seen the pair off from Newcastle in the early hours of the morning. It was no small achievement for the mother to make the journey which involved crossing London where she had never been before but, encouraged by Ursula and knowing that a Toc H friend would meet her at Brighton, she had travelled in faith.

During the time when Tony was with the headmaster I was able to talk to Anne, and this is what she said: 'Miss Lefroy is a wonderful person. She runs sales so that we can buy clothes cheaply; she has started a football team for the boys; she holds a club for the mothers; and she comes into our homes, however poor, like a real friend. Would you please tell me about Toc H?'

By this time Tony's interview was over and we had to hurry away to catch the return train, so I had little time in which to fulfil her request. When Christmas came Brighton branch sent woolly caps and mittens and gifts for all the members of the family, and there our involvement ended, as Tony did not come to Brighton after all. A place was found for him in a residential school in Yorkshire, so much nearer home and his Toc H friends.

Molly Williams *Brighton*

'Let's Go Mad'

Congratulations on your Editorial 'Viewpoint', 'Let's go mad'.

As one who first knew Toc H in the late 'twenties and enjoyed great joy and fellowship in membership through the 'thirties I have as a Builder come away unhappy from birthday or other celebrations, feeling that Toc H has thoroughly grown old and attained middle-aged stuffiness. Where is the 'Gallant and high-hearted happiness'; where is the spontaneous breaking into song; where are the youngsters arguing through the night, trying to put the world to rights?

It rather seems as if we that are left have indeed grown old and are more concerned with Points of Order and doing good deeds than realising that half the joy of Toc H is fellowship and doing the job together. We were known as 'the human zoo' and my main enjoyment came from meeting people from other walks of life whom I would not otherwise have met, and realising that from their standpoint they were right.

One of your correspondents now suggests that you should close down the Marks; surely this should be one of your greatest contacts with youth, which in my opinion the Movement so greatly needs.

Toc H need not discard its old men, who no doubt like me were inspired by the leadership and oratory of men like Tubby, Pat Lennard, Gilbert Williams, 'Sawbones' and a great many like them.

Today, men of this calibre do not seem to be with us, or if they are, they need, as Kipling would have said, 'waking'.

I suggest that your Central Executive spends some of your £2 million in looking round for talent that can inspire us, young and old.

Heaven knows, Mr Editor, what your nickname would have been in the old days, but you are quite right–'Let's go mad'. Let's go madder still or else quietly strangle Toc H in red tape and join our Elder Brethren.

Maurice Saunders
Market Harborough

Surely there is enough gloom and despondency in our national and Sunday papers without having to have it in your excellent magazine as well. The speaker, our Central Councillor, was unfortunately unable to come to our meeting last night, and as we had just been given our *Point Threes* we started on it, and a member read parts of the 'Let's go mad' article. It nearly sent us mad. One member who does not read *Point Three* on principle read the letter on homes for the elderly. If this is all we are going to get from the Central Council–just moans and groans and grumbles and grouses–well! Another member even wanted to know the value of coming along every Monday.

We meet primarily for fellowship; so what we want to hear about is what others in Toc H are doing with regard to the other three points of the Compass–what personal service is being done and planned. Let's hear of some far-reaching decisions taken with which some of us might disagree, so that there can be a talking point or two. In other words, let's be venturesome; let's hear in the winter how Toc H is getting on with the younger age groups with which we are out of touch down here; and what about a word or two about how Toc H is approaching the increasing nearness of the Kingdom of God?

We are a small branch in Newton Abbot; we have just lost everything in a fire; our usual jobs bar one have been swept from under our feet; we are nearly all busy people with our livelihoods to consider; maybe we lack some of that necessary drive that our neighbours certainly have; but for heaven's sake disperse that gloom, let's hear more of the 'shaft of light' that John Morgan's letter mentions. Let Toc H take up the challenge in Reg Coates's letter and

campaign for a new meaning for some more of our outworn symbolisms

The Rev C A Cardale
Totnes, Devon

Crisis of identity

I have been away from Mark V–which is my home–for the greater part of 1973, and have only recently had a chance to catch up on my reading of back numbers of *Point Three*.

Perhaps it would have been better had I not attempted such a concentrated survey of 1973–for my over-all impression is that the Movement is suffering from a severe crisis of identity–'What's wrong with our image?' 'Are we no longer Christians?' 'Does Toc H have a future?' 'Does the Main Resolution make for Toc H hypocrisy in the modern multi-religious society? These and many similar questions seem strongly to indicate an undercurrent of doubt, disorientation and even despair, which has made me think again about my original intention to seek Toc H membership.

Has there been a failure of nerve somewhere? Does the dilemma of Toc H merely reflect the disintegration of the Church and of Christianity? Or has the Movement lost sight of and become out of touch with the nature of its origin?

But rather than add to the immense list of agonised questions which have appeared in *Point Three*, I would offer some basic facts and arguments which, to my mind at least, point conclusively in a certain direction.

At its point of origin, Toc H was *Christian* and *British*. Tubby Clayton was nothing if not patriotic–though both as a word and as a sentiment 'patriotism' does not seem to figure very conspicuously in your pages–and the Movement that he founded, while respecting the rights and identities of other religions and nations, was not intended to serve as an escape-hatch either from our national Church or from our national character; and when we bear in mind that the Patron of Toc H is the symbolic head of both our Church and our nation, the current uncertainties of the Movement appear indeed strange–not so much by virtue of their existence, but by virtue of the way in which they are presented and discussed.

Nobody respects a person, an organisation or a nation which is not true to itself–which does not hold fast through thick and thin to its own unique identity. Yet Toc H is attempting the impossible task of trying to be all things to all men–and as G K Chesterton might have said (and probably did), 'He who tries to be all things to all men ends up by being nothing to anybody.'

Philip Wood *Southampton*

'How to run a city' survey

Regarding the headlines in *Point Three* relating to press response to the above survey, I think it is typical of newspapers, parochial and national, to distort what I and others have found to be a balanced and cleverly executed project and straightforward social survey. Incidentally, students in one of the faculties at Birmingham University are currently taking an interest in the content of the report, its methods and its local impact.

This type of project could easily be operated in other towns or parts of large cities, either in a short burst of effort or spread over several weeks, or even months. In the broad context of the aims and objects of our Movement (and they are very broad), something positive to the participants and the administration under scrutiny would surely follow.

M Paul Rogoff *Birmingham*

Bring back the pilot

There are thousands of people who, like me, caught Toc H early in their lives and have retained the challenge of initiation all their lives.

It is a simple statement of fact that this pattern of behaviour has had a vast effect in the realms of social service as it exists today. There can be no record of these achievements. What is of paramount importance, however, is the continuation of this mighty power, this terrific influence upon the minds of those who come within the compass of Toc H, either as members, associates or sharing in projects.

If Toc H is to retain any individuality of its own then we must never forget that we evolved with our own specific Compass–*four* Points guiding the way, no matter who adopts them, or wherever fate decrees the proud owner shall travel.

The accent today is on service, and projects–a vastly crowded field of noble effort by almost every society concerned with social welfare. No one would wish to halt this, no one would banish the jobmaster whatever he/she may be called today. What Toc H must bring back (in my humble opinion) is the *Pilot*.

Barclay Baron, one of our supreme Toc H architects, wrote: 'Toc H exists mainly in the realms of the mind.' The fabric of Toc H, woven as it is throughout the years into our society, has given all this multitude of members these divine guidelines adaptable to every individual capable of understanding and accepting them.

A quotation from Judge Ben Lindsay sums up my point: 'I do beseech you to direct your efforts to preparing youth for the path and less to preparing the path for youth.'

Ron Carpenter *Southsea*

HOUSEKEEPER required for Mark IV, Manchester. Good wages. Good accommodation. Couple considered. Applications to: Toc H Northern Region Office, Mark IV, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester M14 5RU

WARD'S WANDERINGS

Ken Ward, who has recently joined the full-time staff in New Zealand, writes about a year's working holiday which brought him to America and Europe.

Where do you start when you are browbeaten into writing a few lines for a magazine? One could say 'I'm too busy' or 'I can't write an article', but this is the lazy way.

Do I start by describing the way of life I've enjoyed since I first emigrated to New Zealand from Lancashire? Or do I try to paint an outline of the places I've been to since leaving New Zealand on a year's working holiday? Of course, it's impossible to try to cover all this. Instead, all that can be offered are a few glimpses of some of the highlights of my trip.

The journey on the train, some 12 hours in all, from Wellington to Auckland at the start of my holiday, passing through the many different faces of New Zealand. At the start of the journey we pass through many small dormitory towns, but as we approach the centre of the island the scenery changes and we see some of the great expanses of green farmland on which New Zealand's economy depends. With some 60 million sheep and only 3 million people it is little wonder that New Zealand lamb is to be found all over the world. And so to the great volcanic area, past the still active and smoking Mount Nguarahoe, and we are reminded again that the earth is still young in this part of the globe. The hustle and bustle as we board our ship, and then the poignancy as we pull away from the dock, the streamers which joined us to the shore but a few minutes ago now breaking, just as our hearts break a little when we see our friends and loved ones standing there becoming smaller and smaller as we steam out to sea. Then, finally, we can no longer hear that old Maori song 'Now is the Hour', so well known in the northern hemisphere; nor can we see Aotearoa (the Maori name for New Zealand, translated as 'Land of the Long White Cloud').

Life on board ship is not as relaxing as one would imagine; something seems to be happening practically every hour of the day and night. What excitement surrounds every arrival at our ports of call, not only because everyone is eager to see foreign lands but also because everyone seems to want to release themselves from what after a few days becomes a confined space.

In Tahiti the lovely young hula dancers make me wish I was an Arabian sheikh or a sultan in his palace. The abundance of the fresh fruit and tropical flowers, the oppressive heat and then the relaxation of sitting beside the deep, rich blue Pacific at the bay where 'Mutiny on the Bounty' was filmed.

The Panama Canal, a real eye-opener; not a concrete channel but a series of large lagoons linked by small locks all beautifully cared for, and the untiring little engines that pull some of the largest ships of the world on their way from one ocean to the next.

New York is certainly not the intense concrete jungle I'd imagined. It turned out to be a lively, fascinating and friendly city. The ferry-boat ride across the harbour to the Statue of Liberty, which inside contains a fascinating museum dealing with immigration into the USA over the centuries. We leave New York at night, and our last sight is the skyline of Manhattan with its towering skyscrapers almost overshadowing the illuminated Statue of Liberty with the torch held aloft.

The cosmopolitan atmosphere of Amsterdam, the medieval splendour of 'La Grande Place' in Brussels, the cheeses of Holland (pointing out to me at least that the cheeses of my adopted country still leave much to be desired). The European beer served chilled, the local food delicacies, the rich creamy gateaux have all contributed to an expanding waistline. Possibly the most enjoyable time was my short stay at Talbot House, Poperinge, where I truly relaxed and renewed myself for the return to New Zealand.

But of all these beauties I've seen, the memories I will hold for ever, to bring out of my mind and look at in solitude, will be of the people. The priest I met in Dunkirk (who had no English–I having no French) who took me on a tour of the town; the elderly lady–alas, now blind–in my old home town who does not let life oppress her; the ordinary man and woman in the street only too willing to assist in any way–these are the memories I have no wish to lose. And this is what travel means to me: not only the opportunity to visit new places, but more especially the chance to meet and get to know, if only for a short time, my fellow man.

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three* Magazine, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.

HOTEL LYBEER has been a centre for Toc H members since 1945. Charles, a Toc H Builder and well known to many members, welcomes parties and individuals. Charles Vanhove, Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.

NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. For properties in this area, between £[illegible],000 and £25,000, contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, [illegible] Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1NR. Telephone [illegible]2301.

VISIT WARDEN MANOR in 1974. Historic manor house in rural Isle of Sheppey countryside near sea. Happy Toc H fellowship. New tennis court. 1974 season 6 July–14 Sept. Also open Easter (11–15 April) and Spring Bank Holiday week-end (24–27 May). Write John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, near Sheerness, Kent ME12 4HD.

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TOC H requires a

DIRECTOR

Toc H is a Movement concerned with Christian values and the Director is the senior of a team of four executive Principal Officers responsible for the day-to-day direction of the Movement. He/she is responsible for advising its Central Executive Committee on the formation of policy and the interpretation and implementation of such policy both inside and outside the Movement.

A knowledge of voluntary and statutory social services would be advantageous, and an ability to develop and work within a good relationship with colleagues and membership is essential.

The appointment is based in Wendover but the successful applicant will be required to travel widely within the UK. The appointment will be for a period of five years commencing on 1 November 1974 and is subject to confirmation by the Central Council of Toc H in October 1974. Interviews will be conducted on London.

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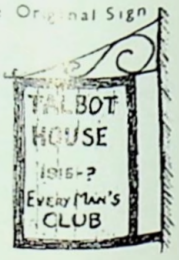

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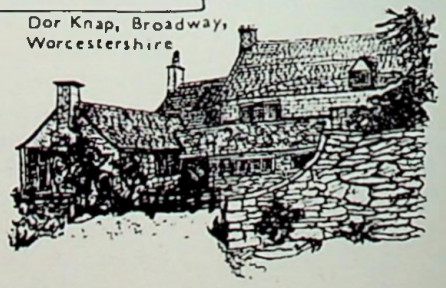

Designed and drawn by Janet Rauch.
Published by Toc H. ©1973 Toc H

Published by Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6BT and printed in England by NCH Printing Dept., Harpenden